Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 PC-01 ACDA-07 /095 W

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R 221055Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3464
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU

SUBJECT: MORE ETHIOPIAN TROOPS TURN THEMSELVES OVER TO SUDAN

1. SAHAFA JAN 22, QUOTING MOHAMAD ABDEL GADIR, COMMISSIONER KASSALA PROVINCE REPORTS ELEVEN ETHIOPIAN OFFICERS HANDED THEMSELVES TO SUDANESE AUTHORITIES IN GEDARIF JAN 20. THEY CROSSED BORDER FROM HAMADAYB AREA IN SUDAN FOLLOWING BATTLE WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN EDU AND EPMG TROOPS. ANOTHER 43 NCOS OF ETHIOPIAN CUSTOMS POLICE ALSO ARRIVED IN GEDARIF AND WERE IN POSSESSION OF 43 PIECES OF WEAPONS AND A MORTAR. THEY CROSSED BORDERS FOLLOWING BATTLES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN AREAS OF AL-HUMRA, METEMMA AND ABDEL RAFEI BETWEEN EDU AND EPMG FORCES. ETHIOPIANS STATED THAT MOST EPMG STATIONS ALONG SUDANESE BORDER HAVE BECOME COMPLETELY ISOLATED FROM CONTROL OF RULING REGIME IN ADDIS ABABA AFTER BEING FULLY CAPTURED BY EDU REBELS. THEY SAID ETHIOPIAN TROOPS ARE IN STATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF TERROR WHICH LED SOME OF THEM TO SURRENDER TO REBELS AND SOME TO ENTER SUDAN. MEANWHILE OTHERS ARAUWANDERING ABOUT IN BORDER AREAS. COMMISSIONER SAID LARGE NUMBER OF ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES ARRIVED IN GEDARIF AREA RUNNING FROM SUPPRESSION AND ASSAULT PRACTICED BY ETHIOPIAN TROOPS AGAINST INNOCENT INHABITANTS. HE SAID REFUGEES ARE RECEIVING GOOD TREATMENT FROM AUTHORITIES OF KASSALA

PROVINCE.

2. COMMENT: SAHAFA REPORT IS LATEST IN SUDANESE ANTIEPMG PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, ALTHOUGH SHOULD BE NOTED THAT,
AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, LOCAL REPORTING ON DEVELOPMENTS
ALONG SUDAN-ETHIOPIAN BORDER REASONABLY ACCURATE. ARTICLE
CONTAINS FIRST MENTION OF APPARENT FALL OF ABDEL REFAI.
EVENTS DESCRIBED IN SAHAFA FOLLOW IN AFTERMATH PAST
WEEK'S BATTLES. BY ITSELF REPORT DOES NOT INDICATE FRESH
FIGHTING IS IN PROGRESS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD THAT AT
LEAST ONE MORE (UNIDENTIFIED) TOWN IS READY TO FALL TO
EDU FORCES. BREWER

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